

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2005**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Joseph Miceli;
Linda Santarella; Barbara Thorne

STAFF: John Crary, Administrative Officer

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Klein called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

The First Selectwoman stated that with Election Day being tomorrow there were items on the agenda that were being brought forth for follow up.

She reported that a number of properties had been brought to her attention for senior affordable housing and the Town should follow up on these possibilities.

She thanked all Board Members for the good work they did by serving on the Board in the past two years.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Crary reported that he was notified by the State that Steap grants were available and applications should be submitted by January 13th. He reported that there were limits for the use of the grants and he spoke to the Department Heads and they are looking for ideas. Ms. Klein suggested that signage for downtown could be a possibility for a grant.

SENIOR CENTER TASK FORCE REPORT

Ms. Santarella reported that the Task Force has been meeting weekly since June 15th and they are now meeting at 3:00 p.m. She reported that architects, Neil Hauck and Rob Young, are looking for a program to either build or redo the Senior Center. She reported

that the Chairman is working on a program for tomorrow. She also reported that last week an architect firm that did the Senior Center in Norwalk and the Fairfield Daycare Center gave them some good ideas. She stated that samples of asbestos were taken from the building and they will have the results in two to three weeks. She thanked the Board of Finance for approving the funding for the asbestos study and noted that she was very concerned about the asbestos in the building. Ms. Santarella reported that the architects advised them that they will need a feasibility study that will cost approximately \$20,000 - \$50,000 to redo the existing building or build a new building. Ms. Klein stated that they have an opportunity to receive a grant for this project. Ms. Santarella reminded everyone that there will be a public information meeting on November 15th at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. She thanked the Darien newspaper for placing the survey in the newspaper and stated that they were still looking for more responses.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss Emergency Management – Shelter Issue

Jeannie Yusko and Norm Guimond were present from the Darien Red Cross. Ms. Yusko stated that she and Marc McEwan toured Darien High School and Middlesex School last week to see the feasibility for a shelter site. Mr. Guimond reported that the issue at both buildings was that there were no connections to tie-in a generator for electricity. He stated that if changes were made, the two buildings would meet the 10% requirement for sheltering the population of Darien. Mr. Crary stated that the plan was to use a mobile generator and the money was presently in the budget. He stated that Marc McEwan was looking at the electrical needs at the buildings with the high school being the primary shelter and Middlesex School as the secondary one. He stated he had not heard back from Mr. McEwan as yet. Ms. Thorne asked if they needed connections in both schools and Mr. Crary replied that they did. Ms. Santarella asked if the Senior Center had been looked into as a shelter. Mr. Guimond of the Red Cross said they had not discussed the Senior Center but should look at it. Mr. Crary noted that the generator will only service one location. Ms. Klein stated that they could apply for grants and use the money for Homeland Security and they should also look at what FEMA offers. Mr. Crary stated that they would need a plan and the cost from Mr. McEwan and the Red Cross. Ms. Susan Young asked what was the amount that was allocated for the generator and Mr. Crary replied it was \$40,000. Ms. Young asked if that was enough and Mr. Crary replied that he did not know.

b) Discuss recommendation from Administrative Officer to change health insurance brokers

Mr. John Crary reported that each year the Town purchases health, dental, prescription, life insurance, and long term disability for employees and retirees. He stated that a

broker is hired to act as the Town's agent. He reported that for years the Town has used the same broker and the service provided has not been satisfactory. He stated that the Finance Director, Human Resources Director, and he looked into pursuing a new broker who would provide better service and obtain lesser costs for insurance. He reported that they had identified two brokers who had offered proposals and there was an opportunity to save \$7,000 on life insurance by changing companies. He stated that he was recommending Lockton Benefits Consultants because of the opportunity to improve services and save on costs and noted that these changes would be beneficial to the Town.

Dr. Miceli asked how this would tie in with the Board of Education. Mr. Crary replied that in 1998 the Town and the Board of Education agreed to have joint group health insurance however, he had researched it and has not been able to recover the Resolution. Mr. Crary stated that his proposal is not to separate from the Board of Education.

Ms. Thorne stated that she would like an evaluation and a complete review and suggested that the Insurance Committee take a good look at it cooperatively and move forward. Dr. Miceli agreed with Ms. Thorne.

Ms. Sally Raleigh, Chairman of the Board of Education, stated that from 1998 and prior to that, there was an enormous amount of cooperative work done to arrive at a joint health insurance plan. She continued that it was a major cooperative effort and she asked that as this goes forward that there be a cooperative effort with the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education and that it not be unilaterally dissolved. Ms. Klein stated that it appeared to be a cooperative effort and that there was no decision being made on this tonight. She stated that there was no unilateral decision by herself or Mr. Crary.

Ms. Susan Young stated that the Board of Finance and Board of Education had not been brought in at this point and that brokers had been interviewed so it was a unilateral decision until the Board of Education was invited. Ms. Klein stated that the Board of Selectmen can have an agenda item and discuss it and that this was the only legal way they could have a discussion on the topic. She stated that last week she sent an email to the Board of Finance stating that this was not discussed in public and that no action would be taken other than a follow up.

Ms. Cheryl Russell asked if they were seeking other brokers. Ms. Klein replied that the Insurance Committee will first need a charge and a mission. Ms. Thorne stated that Mr. Crary made a recommendation and they will take it under advisement, therefore this was not settled or did not eliminate anyone.

Ms. Klein stated that she wanted to reassure everyone that no action was being taken on changing insurance brokers. Ms. Thorne stated that she planned not to vote on this item because she was an employee of the Board of Education.

c) Discuss Safe Rides Program in light of new state legislation affecting teen driving

Ms. Klein stated that the new state legislation that prohibits anyone under age 18 to drive past 12:00 a.m. has seriously affected the Safe Rides Program. Mr. Jim Bletzer stated that they needed a grass roots effort to get exemption for the Town and they will work with the Red Cross lobbyists to get to Capitol Hill. He stated that State Representative Andrew MacDonald is aware of this new legislation. Ms. Klein stated that she would contact him. Mr. Bletzer stated that the Safe Rides Program is in jeopardy and that in the 23 years that the program has been running there has not been any alcohol related fatality in Town.

d) Discuss and Take Action on acceptance of a gift from Patrick Donaghy, of a Zodiac boat and outboard motor

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE GIFT FROM PATRICK DONAGHY OF A ZODIAC BOAT AND OUTDOOR MOTOR.**
**** DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e) Transfer:

Planning and Zoning Department

Transfer from Contingency to Consulting Services.

As you probably know, the Planning and Zoning Commission is currently in the process of reviewing an affordable housing application on Nearwater Lane. At the November 1, 2005 public hearing on this matter, over 300 interested residents were in attendance. The public hearing was continued until November 29th, with further public hearing nights into December being a strong possibility.

The Department hopes to hire one or two outside consultants to review and analyze the submitted application materials. The amount we will be spending on these consultants will likely be in the range of \$18,000-\$20,000. This will exceed the amount originally set aside in this year's budget for consulting.

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

From:			To:		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
1704000-86600	Contingency	\$20,000	10201011-82012	Consulting Services	\$20,000
TOTAL		\$20,000	TOTAL		\$20,000

Dr. Miceli stated that this was a good idea.

- ** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR REFERRAL TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER 1704000-86600, CONTINGENCY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 TO ACCOUNT NUMBER 10201011-82012, CONSULTING SERVICES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.**
- ** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Newman thanked Dr. Miceli for his incredible service and was very grateful for all he had done while serving on the Board of Selectmen. He also stated that he had big shoes to fill.

6:30 P.M. - RECESS PUBLIC SESSION AND GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS.

- ** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:25 P.M. TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS.**
- ** DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ** MS. THORNE MOVED TO GO BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION AT 6:26 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE MINUTES.**
- ** DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2005

- ** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2005 AS WRITTEN.**
- ** DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EMERGENCY MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2005

- ** DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2005 AS WRITTEN.**
- ** MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2005

**** DR. MICELI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2005 AS WRITTEN.**

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** DR. MICELI MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 PM TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS.**

**** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6:30 p.m. Interview Palmer Sparkman, nominee of the Republican Town Committee, for appointment to the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters as representative for Delafield Island.

6:45 p.m. Interview Peter Blank, nominee of the Republican Town Committee, for appointment to the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters as representative for Tokeneke Association

7:00 p.m.—RECONVENE—PUBLIC SESSION

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

1) Consider and take action on the following appointments:

a. Palmer Sparkman (R) as a member of the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, representing Delafield Island, for a term beginning on 2/16/05 and expiring on 2/15/07.

b. Peter Blank (R) as a member of the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, representing Tokeneke Association, for a term beginning on 2/16/05 and expiring on 2/15/07.

2). Consider and take action on the following reappointments:

a) Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters— Lincoln Jewett (R) representing Darien Boat Club, for a term beginning on 2/16/05 and expiring on and expiring on 2/15/07.

- b) **Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters— Jon Schoudel (R) representing Noroton Bay Association, for a term beginning on 2/16/05 and expiring on 2/15/07.**
- c) **Town Pension Board—Tom Volpe (R) for a term beginning 7/1/05 and expiring on 6/30/08.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- November 1, 2005 Planning & Zoning Planning meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- November 5, 2005 Parks & Recreation meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- November 14, 2005 RTM Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m.
- November 15, 2005 Planning & Zoning General meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- November 15, 2005 Board of Finance regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.
- November 21, 2005 Board of Selectmen regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- November 22, 2005 Planning & Zoning public hearing at 8:00 p.m.
- December 5, 2005 Board of Selectmen regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

(A two-thirds majority vote is required to add an item to the agenda)

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna DeVito
Telesco Secretarial Services

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting**